

marked with the same humility and commitment that Sherburne residents have come to expect of his service. In fact, he thanked the Board for their support, thanked the citizens for the privilege to serve them, and thanked his staff—calling them “unsung heroes.”

Bruce Anderson's tenure as Sheriff was marked by a number of enormous advances in the Office's operations. He oversaw an expansion of the County jail and worked out an arrangement to house federal inmates there as well. He brought extraordinary technological advances, including updating their radio system to digital to better enable Sherburne sheriffs to communicate with neighboring jurisdictions. And, he solved some real mysteries and crimes, including a high-profile 1992 murder.

Bruce's successor will be Captain Joel Brott, who has served in Sherburne County law enforcement for 12 years. Captain Brott has said that he considers Sheriff Anderson a mentor and with such tutelage, Sherburne is sure to be in good hands.

In the meantime, we look forward to seeing what next wonderful adventure in public service awaits Bruce Anderson. Sherburne County Commissioner Felix Schmiesing called Anderson's retirement “the end of an era” but I believe it is the start of a wonderful new chapter both for Bruce Anderson and for the people of Sherburne County, who I am certain he will continue to serve in some new way.

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE GRANT A. COTTING

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district, Army Private Grant A. Cotting. Today I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to his country.

Grant grew up in Corona, California and attended Santiago High School for three years before graduating from Buena Vista High School in 2007. During his senior year, Grant was part of the ROTC program and hoped to have a career in the military. School officials and counselors remember Grant fondly—he was a quiet student who never hesitated to lend a hand to fellow students.

Private Cotting enlisted in the Army after graduation and was assigned to the 515th Sapper Company, 5th Engineer Battalion, 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade based at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. A sapper company handles demolitions, laying and disarming mines, and other combat engineering tasks. On January 24, 2009, Grant was killed in Kut, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Grant leaves behind his parents, Craig and Amanda, and four younger brothers, Branden, Nick, Scott and Lucas.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country we realize that this history is comprised of men, just like Grant, who bravely fought for the ideals of freedom and democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. The news of Grant's death was probably the hardest day the Cotting family

has ever faced and my thoughts, prayers and deepest gratitude for their sacrifice goes out to them. There are no words that can relieve their pain and what words I offer only begin to convey my deepest respect and highest appreciation.

Private Cotting's family have all given a part of themselves in the loss of their loved one and I hope they know that their son and brother, the goodness he brought to this world, and the sacrifice he has made, will always be remembered.

TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN CALLAN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House to join me in honoring a great Western New Yorker—one of many who are intentional Western New Yorkers, those who have chosen to live in our region as opposed to natives like myself. I rise today to honor Kathleen Callan as she ends her tenure as Executive Director of the Erie County Democratic Committee.

Kathy is a New Jersey native; a product of the Philadelphia, PA suburbs, educated first in local schools and later at American University in Washington, DC, where she earned her undergraduate degree. After high school experiences that included internships with then-Senator Bill Bradley and Congressman Rob Andrews, Kathy and her husband Tim moved to Western New York in 1995, as Tim studied for his PhD at the University at Buffalo.

Following a lengthy stint at the Western New York chapter of the American Lung Association which was marked by successful lobbying for passage of clean indoor air and anti-smoking legislation at the county and state levels, Kathy assumed the Executive Director's position upon the election of Chairman Len Lenihan in 2002.

From January 2003 to just a few days ago, Kathy served tirelessly as Executive Director, managing the day to day operations of the busiest and most successful county Democratic Party organization in upstate New York. Kathy's record of successful contributions to candidates for public office runs the gamut of offices in New York State. From trustee positions in the smallest villages of Erie County, to countywide offices like Comptroller and County Clerk, to state legislative and congressional officeholders and Justices of the State Supreme Court, several dozen public officeholders—myself included—owe Kathy a tremendous debt of gratitude for her intellect and instinct, her dedication and loyalty, and her tireless commitment to public service.

For that latter point, Madam Speaker, I do not wish to belabor, but instead to amplify. Over the past six years, Kathy worked literally scores of 80, 90 or 100-hour workweeks, dependent of course upon the time of year and the political calendar's requirements, in order to ensure that candidates for public office had the services they needed. As myself a former Secretary—a lifetime ago, it seems—of the very party she served so proudly, I can honestly say that no staff member of our local organization ever worked as hard, or as effectively, as Kathy Callan has.

So, Madam Speaker, it is with a somewhat heavy heart that we bid farewell to Kathy as Executive Director of the Erie County Democratic Committee, although I am certain that we will see her often. I hope the House will join me in wishing Kathy and her husband Tim good luck and Godspeed in all of their future endeavors, and again congratulate Kathy on a job superbly done.

DISABILITY BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE WITH HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I have introduced the Huntington's Disease Parity Act of 2009 (H.R. 678). The purpose of this bill is to improve Social Security Disability Benefits and Medicare coverage for people affected by Huntington's Disease.

Huntington's Disease (HD), is a genetic neurodegenerative disease (like Alzheimer's) that causes total physical and mental deterioration over a 10 to 25 year period. Eventually, every person diagnosed with HD will lose the ability to live independently. It is a rare disease, affecting 30,000 Americans, while another 200,000 are considered “at risk” of inheriting it from an affected parent.

Many people with HD who apply for Social Security disability benefits experience delays and denials due to the continued use of outdated and insufficient medical criteria. Often, by the time persons affected by HD are “under review” for SSA disability, many have already lost their employer-provided health insurance benefits. This legislation would address this problem by directing the Social Security Administration to revise its medical criteria for determining disability for people with HD.

The legislation would also remove the two-year waiting period for people living with HD to receive Medicare benefits after receiving Social Security disability benefits. Eliminating this waiting period will ensure individuals will get crucial care they need in the early stages of the disease. In 2000, the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services waived this waiting period requirement for people disabled by ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis or Lou Gehrig's disease), another degenerative neurological condition similar to HD.

IN APPRECIATION OF SPECIAL AGENT SCOTT SAMMIS OF THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES

HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the valuable contributions that Special Agent Scott Sammis of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has made to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies this past